

To: Mahmud, Shahid[Mahmud.Shahid@epa.gov]; Wirtschafter, Joshua[Wirtschafter.Joshua@epa.gov]; Hillenbrand, John[Hillenbrand.John@epa.gov]; Price, Lisa[Price.Lisa@epa.gov]; Moreen, Ed[Moreen.Ed@epa.gov]; Hathaway, Ed[Hathaway.Ed@epa.gov]
Cc: Stalcup, Dana[Stalcup.Dana@epa.gov]; Wells, Suzanne[Wells.Suzanne@epa.gov]; Zaragoza, Larry[Zaragoza.Larry@epa.gov]
From: Countryman, Kevin
Sent: Wed 8/26/2015 3:58:07 PM
Subject: RE: 10-year-old Gold King article

It appears to me that this one journalist, more than any others, has been paying attention to the Gold King area for a long time. Though his 10-year-old article lends perspective to the Gold King burst, Alan Prendergast (<http://www.westword.com/authors/alan-prendergast-5052731>), briefly revisited the subject in the link below. He does a good job of covering the finger-pointing among the parties involved. He does not, however, let EPA off the hook. (I mention this lest we go around pointing to his 2005 article as a clear vindication. The final paragraph of his more recent article states:

"Whether the tainted underground pools and streams in the old mining district are interconnected or not, they remain a large headache for state and federal regulators — one that's been decades in the making. Which makes EPA's blunder all the more stunning. Many of Colorado's old high-country mines are ticking time bombs, just waiting to go off. Shoddy private operations (remember Summitville?) can make the problem worse. But nobody expected the EPA, the scourge of polluters everywhere, to be the guys who pulled the plug."

<http://www.westword.com/news/animas-river-disaster-problems-at-mine-site-date-back-decades-7021433> <<read this one

"Hennis believes the situation in the Eureka district has been exacerbated by a complicated deal that state regulators struck with the owners of Sunnyside Gold, the last operating mine in the area, which closed in 1991. Rather than treat all the water in its vast mine pool, Sunnyside's Canadian owners were allowed to seal off the mine and turn over some of its remediation efforts, including a water treatment plant for discharges, to a local "straw" operator — who subsequently went out of business."

It gets juicier. Be sure to read this link:

<http://www.westword.com/news/gold-king-mines-owner-billions-more-gallons-could-spill-into-animas-river-7037515> <<read this one especially

Although anti-EPA bloggers like to cherry-pick what Hennis has been saying so as to portray EPA as being the sole party to blame,

what the Gold King-owner tells Prendergast is more even-handed.

--Kevin C.

From: Mahmud, Shahid
Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2015 10:49 PM
To: Wirtschafter, Joshua; Hillenbrand, John; Price, Lisa; Moreen, Ed; Hathaway, Ed
Cc: Countryman, Kevin; Stalcup, Dana; Wells, Suzanne; Zaragoza, Larry
Subject: 10-year-old Gold King article

Team,

Please look at this article.

Thanks Kevin!

Shahid Mahmud
Team Leader
EPA Abandoned Mine Lands Team
703-603-8789

From: Countryman, Kevin
Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2015 12:01 PM
To: Mahmud, Shahid; Friedland, Melissa
Subject: 10-year-old Gold King article

This is a long read, and it might be a repetition of what you already know. But it is a detailed discussion of the situation at Gold King from September 2005, and it presents information that I've not been seeing covered in the media.

<http://www.westword.com/news/what-lies-beneath-5086257>